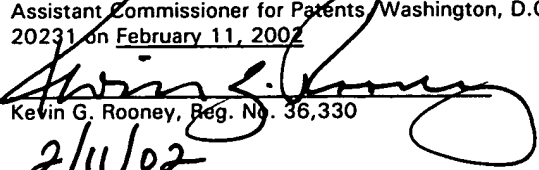


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Applicants: Warren P. Williamson IV et al.
Serial No: 09/986,260
Filing Date: November 8, 2001
Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Unknown
Title: SURGICAL CLAMP DEVICES AND METHODS ESPECIALLY
USEFUL IN CARDIAC SURGERY
Atty Docket: IDX-02A

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

February 11, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please preliminarily amend this application as

follows: